

Wentworth Place.
15th Augt 1821.

My dear Richard,

On Saturday evening I received a letter from Severn, dated Rome 17th July. He was harassed and perplexed about his picture, and not very well in health. Mr Hilton sent him word, thro' Mr Taylor, that his picture, in order to obtain the pension, must be in the Academy on some particular day in September. Severn therefore worked and laid his plans accordingly. All at once his sister wrote him word, that the latest day appointed for its reception was 10th Aug^t. Poos fellow! he instantly despatched it, partly unfinished, for London, by the King's Messenger, and time enough for the purpose, but some unknown ^{changes} have detained the Messenger or the Picture, so that it had not arrived on 13th, when I was busying myself from house to house about it. It is feared that from this circumstance he never can get the pension, which is £130 pann: for three years, & his travelling expenses to Italy and back. Public bodies never make allowances, — they talk of precedents, — say a rule is a rule, — and pass over to the next, glad enough in all probability

of an excuse for illiberality, as it may tend
to the advantage of one of their more especial
creatures. Now, Richards, write to Severson
as soon as you can, to cheer him. I did
what I could yesterday, & will try again
next post. My plan is (supposing the worst)
to make him hate all Academics, to excite
his spirit of independence, and to urge him
to make portrait painting, in which he
excels, his chief anchor, leaving the
historical in the background, as a study
that will keep him poor all his life,
and, at the best, only give him a good
name when he shall be nothing but a
name. We all know how difficult it
is to stifle young ambition, but I have
tried to do so, and a second in my cause
may avail much. I want him to be
reconciled to go. it in mind after this
cruel disappointment. He complains
seriously of the neglect of his friends
in England, and, among the rest, your
name is not forgotten. Mark that!
Write, as you love him, with all speed.
Heck's papers, in the destruction after his
death, were fortunately saved, and Severson
has copied them to my care; they are
not yet arrived. This I am rejoiced at.
I gave him a link that I feared Mr.
Taylor's Memoir would be a bookseller's

job, — this I wrote yesterday. Indeed I have great reason to think so, from what has been buzzed abroad since I saw you. It appears that any ~~inf~~ interference on my part is conceived to be ridiculous. Putting these rumours together with Mr. Taylor's late conduct I find my eyes beginning to open. Still he has my conditional promise of assistance, to which I must abide, but I guess he will not accept it under such conditions, believing he has got out of me every thing special for his purpose. So I hear. My article was returned last night with a note from Mr. Heffey, saying "it will not do", & I quote his words & the dash into the bargain. you shall read it. It may be bad enough, but I'll take my oath it's worth better treatment. Oh! here is Seveno's address, — à Joseph Seveno Esq., Poste Restante, à Rome, en Italie. Your friend, W^r Peachy, did me the favour of a call; we chatted for a long time, but he never once hinted at residing here, so I conjecture he has changed his mind; there would have been an impropriety in my proposing it to him. I am told that Clarke is thinking of writing a memoir of Thats. Give my Compt^s to Mrs. Richards & my love to the Children, & believe me, Yours most truly,
Chas^r Brown.

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To / The Chickasaw Office
of the Interior Department
Address to Denver.



*Poet laureate
of the
United
States*

myself I am awaiting
you who always get all my
news from me
and you write
so kindly to me

